

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE  
ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

ACQUISITIONS

5-4-1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

January 13, 1942

Present: For the Coordinator of Information--

Dr. Langer, Mr. Dorn and  
Mr. Keren, Sec'y.

Department of State--

Mr. E. Wilder Spaulding

Department of Commerce--

Mr. Louis Domeratsky

Navy Department--

Captain Dudley W. Knox

War Department--

Colonel P. G. Black

Library of Congress--

Mr. John H. Moriarty

Committee on War Time Communications--

Dr. Harry J. Hould

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Mr. Langer reported that he had submitted estimates to the Budget Bureau on the basis of approximately \$40,000. for the six months up to June 30, 1942 and that approval by the Bureau was imminent.

He explained more immediate difficulties were caused by the lack of space on planes going to Europe and by the difficulty of getting an A-1-A priority rating for the cameras. Constant efforts were being made to overcome both these difficulties. Mr. Spaulding reported that

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most of the embassies and legations queried by the State Department on materials available to them had sent rather encouraging replies. Exact details could be taken up when the budget was cleared and equipment ready for use.

Mr. Koren read a similarly encouraging report from the Coordinator of Information representative in London on the continental newspapers and periodicals available there to the British Government. Mr. Domeratsky notified the Committee that he had obtained lists of desired foreign publications from the Civil Aeronautics Authority and the Bureau of Standards and that the Weather Bureau will forward its list to him.

Mr. Spaulding notified the Committee that private libraries had been advised by the State Department to order scientific journals through the Joint Committee on Foreign Publications of the American Association (the Fleming Committee in New York).

*In the absence of Research Lab*  
FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Col. Black raised the question of selecting particular pages in articles of foreign publications for microfilming abroad. He pointed out that with the despatch of an American Expeditionary Force, all its correspondence, reports, maps, etc. would be microfilmed before transportation and that microfilms ordered by this Committee might not be shipped unless they were reduced to the minimum possible bulk.

After some discussion, it was agreed that for the present no selection by the microfilmer would be made on political publications but that the military, naval and commercial attaches might advise on the microfilming of particular technical articles rather than of the complete issue of a journal. Selection of general, political, propaganda and economical articles will be made only in case of necessity.

Mr. Koren was authorized to obtain from the London office of the Coordinator of Information the exact list of the continental publications referred to above.

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ORGANIZATION

Mr. Langer raised the question of the advisability of inviting the Board of Economic Warfare to appoint a representative to the Committee. After some discussion, it was decided not to take this step since the B.E.W. is not a research organization.

It was decided that after the Committee's budget had been approved, the Chairman should notify other government agencies of the existence and organization of the Committee and of the fact that they should send any requests for special handling of foreign publications to the Chairman or to a member of the Committee representing the department or office to which the agency in question was subordinate.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Langer notified the Committee that after the budget had been approved, he intended to take up the question of the agents who would be sent abroad and of the possibility of extending special handling of publications from Latin America.